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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of GermanyREPORT NO. [REDACTED]TOPIC Zerbst Airfield

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 7 June 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. Four jet fighters took off from the Zerbst airfield at 8:30 a.m. on 18 April 1950 in fair weather. Four more jet fighters took off up to 12:30 p.m. at intervals of about 30 minutes. The planes landed after an about 30-minute flight, and were immediately pushed into the hangars. Each plane took off only once during the day.
2. There was no flying at the field on 20 and 21 April 1950.
3. Four jet fighters took off at 9:30 a.m. on 24 April 1950 at short intervals. They flew in formation, heading south, and landed at 10:05 a.m. one shortly after the other.
4. No flights were made on 25 April 1950.
5. Four jet fighters took off at 10:15 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. on 26 April 1950. They headed south, flying in formation, and landed at 12:50 and 1 p.m.
6. No take-offs were made on 28 April 1950.
7. There was all-day flying with jet fighters and conventional fighters on 29 April 1950. The maximum flight time of the jet fighters was 45 minutes.
8. No take-offs were made on 30 April 1950. An estimated 30 to 40 jet fighters of both types and as many conventional fighters were parked at the field. It was not noticed that the aircraft were refueled at the field or that tank trucks were stationed there. Refueling was possibly done in the hangars.**
9. Five medium AA guns,** guarded by one sentry, were being emplaced on the western edge of the field between the guard house and the road to Dobritz (M 53/E 09) on the night of

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10. Three swept-back wing jet fighters were parked at the take-off point between 4 and 7 p.m. on 12 April 1950. Nine single-engine aircraft, covered with tarpaulins, one twin-engine plane and one biplane were parked on the landing field and one single-engine fighter in front of the hangars. Many aircraft, the types of which could not be determined, were parked inside the hangars. Individual conventional fighters with red propeller hubs and a red-white triangle on the nose landed at the field between 5 and 6:30 p.m.*

11. Three jet fighters were parked at the take-off point and many aircraft of different types in front of the hangars on 19 April 1950. Swept-back jet fighters took off in formations of up to four planes between 2 and 4 p.m. and made flights of up to 15 minutes' duration.
12. There was no flying at the field between 20 and 23 April 1950 in unfavorable weather.
13. Three jet fighters were again standing at the take-off point on 26 April 1950 and one jet fighter on the landing field. Eleven swept-back wing jet fighters, one twin-engine plane and ten single-engine fighters were parked in front of the hangars. There was no flying between 1 and 7 p.m. although the weather was favorable. The jet fighters, except for those standing at the take-off point, were trucked into the hangars at 5:30 p.m.
14. Three conventional-wing jet fighters and the following swept-back wing jet fighters were seen at the airfield on 27 April 1950: Four at the runway, three on the landing field and seven in front of the hangars. Individual fighters with radial engine and blue paint practiced flying between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.
15. There was no flying on 30 April 1950 although the weather was fair. The following aircraft were seen at the field: 4 swept-back wing jet fighters, 12 single-engine fighters and 1 biplane. Aircraft of a type previously not seen at the field recently arrived. The planes had a two-man crew and a flexible machine gun firing to the rear. On several days three railroad tank cars were emptied into the fuel dump.
16. Four AA guns of 70 to 80-mm caliber,** each mounted on four

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wheels, were seen on all days of observation in the fields on the edge of the airfield near the stationary radio station. The gun crews were in position. Three more excavated positions with telephone connection were around the field. They were not occupied. Surveying work was being done in the surrounding fields on 26 April 1950.

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17. Three AAA guns emplaced on the western edge of the field practiced firing on 27 April 1950. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Approaching and departing aircraft were used as targets, including a four-engine plane of US make which arrived at 11:20 a.m. and was greeted by the gun crews.

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